

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Disaster relief project reaps immediate, long-term results

By Teresa Dickens

Mississippi Baptists' quick response to needs in Honduras following a late-September hurricane which devastated the country will have both short- and long-term benefits, according to volunteers who worked on the project.

The short-term benefits can be measured by the work two teams of Mississippi volunteers did while in the country Sept. 24 through Oct. 1. Four volunteers worked at a feeding station which served 10,000 meals to residents in and around El Progresso and Puerto Cortes. They also trained national workers in disaster relief techniques which included leaving behind a feeding unit and water purification unit. The team also left 100 boxes of clothing for distribution.

Six other Mississippians served on a medical team, assisting residents in several villages near Puerto Cortes. The team saw 1,650 patients and filled 4,300 prescriptions. The patients suffered from dehydration, malnutrition, and sinus and intestinal problems.

"The people were extremely appreciative," said Norman Bai-

ley, a member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, who worked on the medical team. "They had lost everything they owned so anything we did meant a lot to them."

The long-term benefits of the disaster relief project will come with the harvest from the gospel seeds planted by the volunteers and the opened doors they left behind.

Each patient the medical team saw heard the gospel at least once



if not more during his/her visit. The feeding team also had many opportunities to witness to nationals as they visited around the feeding station.

The "opened doors" left by the volunteers will aid the Honduras-Mississippi Partnership, scheduled to begin January 1994.

"The disaster relief project allowed the Honduran Baptists to see what we could do to help them and showed our volunteers how much our help is needed in the country," said Mackie Davis of Hattiesburg, who serve as assistant stateside coordinator for the partnership.

"Our efforts went a long way in terms of building relationships with the Honduran people," he added. "What was accomplished in one week would have taken weeks, maybe months, otherwise."

"While I would have never wished this disaster on the Honduran people, it is the best thing that could have happened to launch our partnership," Davis remarked. "I believe God will use it to further the gospel in Honduras."

Nevada adopts record CP budget

RENO, Nev. (BP) — Messengers to the 15th annual meeting of the Nevada Baptist Convention heard repeated calls to minister and serve in Christ's name and spirit. Speakers emphasized the theme "Serve in Christ's Spirit," which coincides with the SBC 1993-94 Bold Mission Thrust theme.

The Oct. 19-20 convention drew 158 messengers and nearly

40 registered visitors, and was hosted by Temple Baptist Church in Sparks.

Among the items approved by messengers was "The Forty Thousand Campaign," introduced by NBC Executive Director David F. Meacham. The campaign calls for church membership in NBC churches to grow from the current total of 26,000 to 40,000 by the year 2000.

Key business items also included the adoption of a \$1,794,365 budget for 1994, with a 1994 Cooperative Program goal of \$560,000, up from \$530,000 in 1993. Messengers also voted to increase giving to SBC world missions from 25% to 25.5%. Nevada Cooperative Program giving for the first nine months in 1993 is up nearly 7% over the same period in 1992.

Religious liberty upheld

The Rutherford Institute, a non-profit organization specializing in the defense of religious liberty, has scored two victories that could have national impact. San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Calif., has settled a lawsuit and reaffirmed a student's right to evangelize on campus and use written tracts during his witnessing. The school had restricted the student to a table in the student union, limited the hours he could evangelize, and forbidden written materials. In another case, officials at a Detroit high school relented and approved the formation of a Christian club after Rutherford lawyers intervened to point out that the school already had a policy of allowing similar non-Christian clubs to meet on the grounds during non-curriculum times.

MALT formed

Southern Baptist Associations in the metro Jackson area have joined together to form a program called Metro Area Leadership Training (MALT). Conferences for leadership in Sunday School, Discipleship Training, WMU, Brotherhood, youth, music, and more will be available when 60 conference leaders conduct more than 150 conferences at First Church, Jackson, on Aug. 26-27, 1994. "This training will be equivalent to what one might expect at Glorieta and Ridgecrest. Most of the training will be done by men and women who have taught at Southern Baptist conference centers," said Bart Latner, minister of education at First Church, Brookhaven. For more information, contact James Webster, director of church relations, Hinds-Madison Association, 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39213. Telephone: (601) 362-8676.



Southern Baptist missionary physician Rebekah Naylor, center, of Fort Worth, performs surgery at Bangalore Baptist Hospital. Now she can only watch operations at the hospital in Bangalore, India. She learned Oct. 25 that the Indian government will not renew her Indian medical license. While she appeals the decision, Naylor will devote her time to administrative duties at the 143-bed hospital, where she has worked for the past 20 years. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Naylor, missionary surgeon in India, denied new medical license

BANGALORE, India (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Rebekah Naylor has lost her license to practice medicine in India, crippling her practice at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where she has worked for 20 years.

A medical licensing council in Delhi, India, notified Naylor by letter Oct. 25 that it would not renew her Indian medical license. The decision affects only her Indian medical license. It does not affect her residence visa, which allows her to legally work and live in India.

The committee gave no reason for its decision, which Naylor will seek to have reversed.

Although she cannot perform surgery and other medical procedures, Naylor, a surgeon from Fort Worth, will remain at the 143-bed Bangalore hospital. She still has a full load of administrative responsibilities as associate medical superintendent. She stopped practicing medicine

Sept. 18 when her current license expired.

"It's been hard on the staff and very hard on me," she said in a telephone interview Oct. 26. "It's difficult to be right in the middle of (medical work) and not be able to help."

Naylor, 49, learned of the council's ruling in September, but she could not act or comment on it until she received an official letter, she said.

She believes part of the reason for the license denial stems from Indian nationalism.

In recent years, India has denied visas to missionaries. In the early 1980s, 18 Southern Baptist missionaries lived in India. Today, Naylor is the only Southern Baptist missionary living in the country of 897 million people. Several Southern Baptists work with Indian Baptists as itinerant missionaries, moving in and out of the country on a short-term basis.

Looking back...

50 years ago

Creation of a Mississippi Baptist Foundation, based on the successful Texas model started in 1931, has been proposed by C.J. Olander as an item to be taken up by messengers at the annual gathering of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

20 years ago

First Church, Biloxi, moves into the color television age with the purchase of new camera equipment and the installation in the sanctuary of 14,000 watts of color-correct lighting for their Sunday broadcasts over WLOX-TV.

10 years ago

The Hodnett family — four brothers, their families, and their father — of Straight Bayou Church, Sharkey Association, are applying their agricultural skills at a Baptist experimental farm in the South American nation of Uruguay.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Is revival possible?

The 450 prophets of Baal were seemingly in command. They had the backing of King Ahab and Jezebel and now with government and religion abetting their cause, they were set to win. Then Elijah prayed and God walked in. Revival swept the countryside.

Ninevah was exceedingly wicked but ere God and his servant Jonah were finished, the king and the populace were in sack cloth and ashes. Revival came and will continue to come when people repent, pray, and trust.

Ah, you say, that's just preacher talk. Nothing's going to change. The ungodly will continue to prosper. The wicked, immoral, and profane will rule the land. Sociology, perhaps, good government, maybe; religion? Never!

One thing for sure. If spiritual awakening comes, it will not be powered by Rolls-Royce, but by prayer: "If my people will humble themselves and pray... then will I forgive their sins and heal their land."

David Bryant, president of Concerts of Prayer, International, said in a special report, "In my travels around the country in

recent months, I've witnessed an unprecedented grassroots prayer movement that I'm convinced will prove to be the precursor of a sweeping moral and spiritual rebirth in America."

Bryant's examples: up to 500 students at Stanford University meeting regularly to pray for revival and evangelism; an estimated 1 million junior and senior high school students praying for revival in the "See You at the Pole" effort; Christians in Philadelphia and Atlanta in prayer for Billy Graham crusades; SBC leaders and pastors in "Solemn Assemblies" for prayer; and the Church of God recruiting retired preachers to pray for spiritual revival. J. Edwin Orr's statement is remembered, "Whenever God is ready to do something new with his people, he always sets them to praying."

Think of 170 million Christians worldwide committed to pray for spiritual awakening, said mission statistician David Barrett; or 500,000 Koreans in a prayer march, 100,000 being sought to enlist in the All-Japan Prayer Movement, not to mention Africa,

South America, and Asia. Barrett believes 20 million believers worldwide believe prayer is their primary ministry.

Closer to home, Henry Blackaby, SBC prayer leader, said, "I am very, very convinced that God has begun movement of revival and that we're seeing things happen... that we have not seen in our lifetime."

Roy Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship division, said, "I see the agony... Everywhere I go, people are hurting.... I don't think you can have spiritual awakening unless there is raw pain.... When you reach down, and there's nothing else to reach for, and you can't find anything else... we need desperately the touch of God in our land as we've never needed it in our history."

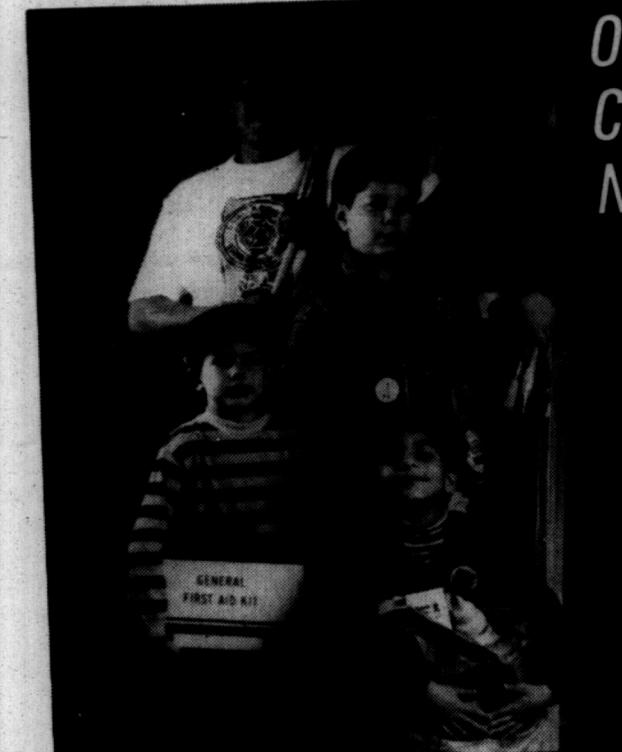
The truth is God desires for us to have revival, but obedience is demanded. We must meet God's conditions of prayer and repentence. More and more of God's people are becoming interested in this than in meetings, conferences, or the machinery of an organization.

Thursday, November 4, 1993

Guy Henderson



Serving
Others In
Christ's
Name



Royal Ambassador Week
NOVEMBER 7-13, 1993



THE FRAGMENTS

Just a touch

United States District Judge Tom Lee was standing near his 30-year-old picture in the Hall of Fame room at Mississippi College. He was delivering the Spell Lectures that week. Tonight he was ably assisted by his wife, Norma Ruth, a graduate of Blue Mountain.

It is said that Tom never saw a

Non-profit mail reform cleared for Clinton's OK

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Most state Baptist newspapers will face a modest postal-rate increase in November if President Bill Clinton signs a bill recently approved by Congress.

The bill would result in a 12% increase for second-class non-profit publications. The hike would be phased in over a six-year period. Third-class non-profit publications would face about a 20% increase over the same period.

The first rate increase is expected to go into effect Nov. 21.

The spending bill for the Treasury Department and Postal Service includes reform legislation for non-profit mail rates that is known as the "Clay Compromise." Drafted by Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., the compromise was drawn after the Clinton administration proposed 150 spending cuts that

included funding for preferred postal rates.

Non-profit mailers have benefited from a preferred rate that reflected only the cost of handling that class of mail. Congress had appropriated funds to the Postal Service for the non-profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. In recent years, the subsidy has been reduced as government has attempted to cut spending.

While cutting the subsidy would have saved the government \$152 million over four years, it would have meant a 35% rate hike this year for non-profit mailers. The bill would reform how preferred rates are calculated, and commercial mailers would pick up part of the tab that the taxpayers used to pay.

Clinton is expected to sign the bill this week.

"B" on his grade sheet at MC, and I saw precious few on mine. Tom was straight "A" all his student years.

The Lee family of Forest is well known and there has been a Lee at Mississippi College for most of the years since 1911. I knew most of them while attending school in Forest and treasure their friendship. They became lawyers, a doctor, judges, Supreme Court Justices, and people of purpose.

Their outstanding records brought memories on a rerun. My mother, in an expansive and appreciative mood, remarked to a neighbor one day that she "had seven boys and, thank the Lord, not a one of them had gone to the penitentiary." I, too, take some solace in that.

My favorite of the Lee clan was "The Judge" — and I speak of the father, Percy M. Lee. He enjoyed life but brooked no nonsense when it came to justice. One day as early teenagers we were playing on the courthouse steps. When Judge Lee walked up we all stood respectfully. I opened the door for him and he patted me on the head as he entered. That was more than 50 years ago, but the imprint remains. Judge Lee was a friend, and so the family has been through the years.

— GH

Observe RA Week Nov. 7-13 —

Royal Ambassadors helps build boys

By James Warren

"Meaningful relationships are the key to a great Royal Ambassador program," said Mickey Hyman. She is the Royal Ambassador director for First Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"I feel meaningful relationships in Royal Ambassadors are important," said Hyman, "because they help build trust, respect, faith, and our understanding of each other. Royal Ambassador missions education helps trains boys to reach out and help others in Jesus' name. They become willing to reach out to others and meet the needs of those less fortunate than themselves. RAs helps the boys' faith in Christ to grow. RAs leads boys to look to Christ for guidance in their lives. RAs helps boys learn to make good choices. I believe 'It is better to build boys than mend men.'"

During the last 12 months, RAs at First Church raised over \$3,000 for world hunger, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, Jerusalem Projects, sponsored by the Home Mission Board, state missions offering, and prepared food boxes for needy families.

"It doesn't matter what state you are in or size of church, the basics are still the same," said Tim Seanor, national Royal Ambassador director for the Brotherhood Commission, SBC. "Developing meaningful relationships through involvement in missions projects and missions education is the heart of the RA program. Meaningful relationships contribute to the child's development of self esteem and self worth. Through this, boys can be led to accept Christ as their personal Savior and develop a Christlike concern for others. Christlike concern is the motivation for missions."

A survey prepared by Baylor University, Waco, Texas, reveals that eight of every 10 boys in Southern Baptist churches have access to Royal Ambassadors in a Southern Baptist church. According to Seanor, "This access is important. Because, in these days, an RA leader may be the only person who stands between the boy and a gang leader."

RAs matter in the lives of boys. It matters in the education process of future missionaries. Think about it. Royal Ambas-

sadors... it matters.

Warren is Crusaders materials editor, Brotherhood Commission, SBC.

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McCall family reunited in Burundi after being separated during coup

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Missionary Dennis McCall of Vicksburg and his family were reunited Oct. 27 after a harrowing week apart following the Oct. 21 military coup in the African nation of Burundi, where they serve as missionary evangelists.

John McCall of Clinton, Dennis' father, reported Oct. 29 that he and Dennis had finally been able to talk by telephone earlier in the day.

Dennis told his father that he and his family were staying at the Swedish Pentecostal Guest House in the Burundi capitol of Bujumbura, which he said had almost returned to normal since the bloody coup began to disintegrate late last week.

Dennis, 39, was in Bujumbura on business when the coup started, while his wife, Margaret, 41, and their three children — Lauren, 7, John, 5, and Micah, 3 — were at their home in Rutana, two and a half hours away.

Virtually all forms of communication were shut down when the

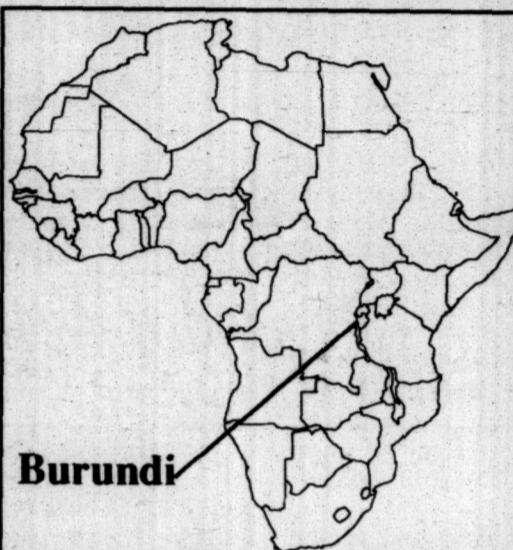
coup began, and Dennis could not be located for nearly 48 hours.

He finally got word out of the country Oct. 23 that he was safe, and even though his family had been accounted for in the meantime, he could not reach his family because of the severed communication links inside the country.

Dennis' first contact with his family came when Margaret and the children were evacuated by helicopter Oct. 26 to Bujumbura, where he was waiting, John McCall said.

The family will take an already-planned, two-week vacation to Kenya as soon as commercial air service is restored, John McCall said, and then most likely return to their work in Burundi if the political situation permits.

All 20 members of the five Southern Baptist missionary families in Burundi have been accounted for, according to officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.



Burundi

Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference

November 15, 1993

First Church, Jackson

Theme: "Building People, Building Churches"

President, Bobby Williamson
Pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon

Monday Afternoon

1:00	Praise and worship led by Ronnie Cottingham	Sammy Agnew
	Opening Prayer	Gerald & Cindy Simmons
1:15	Pre-session Music	Bobby Williamson
	Welcome	Nelson L. Price
	Message	Ronnie Cottingham
1:50	Introduction	Lois Jane Huddleston
2:05	Special Music	Tom Elliff
2:45	Message	Price Harris
3:00	Special Music	Gene Henderson
3:35	Message	Ronnie Cottingham
3:50	Special Music	Jerry Rankin
4:30	Message	Greg Potts
	Benediction	

Monday Evening

6:30	Praise and worship led by Jerry Nance	Combined Choirs
6:45	Pre-session Music	Bobby Williamson
	Welcome	Yo Yo Collins
7:00	Testimony/Special Music	James T. Draper
7:35	Message	Lois Jane Huddleston
7:50	Special Music	James G. Merritt
	Message	Randall Turner
8:30	Benediction	

pastor, First Church, Laurel
President-elect, Pastor's Conference

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Senate approves RFRA after 3-year struggle

WASHINGTON (ABP) — After three years, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is about to become law.

The U.S. Senate Oct. 27 overwhelmingly approved the bill that is regarded as one of the most important measures affecting religious liberty since the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791. The Senate vote was 97-3. An effort to amend the measure failed 41-58.

In May the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved the bill on voice vote. But the bill will have to return to the House because the Senate version has some technical changes. Observers say the House could approve the minor changes to the bill this week. President Bill Clinton endorsed RFRA and is expected to sign it.

The bill (S. 578, H.R. 1308) would restore a high level of protection the Supreme Court formerly

required government to meet before it could restrict a citizen's religious practice.

Previously, government had to demonstrate a compelling interest, such as public health or safety, and use the least restrictive means of safeguarding that interest before it could limit religious exercise. But the high court virtually abandoned that test in its 1990 *Oregon vs. Smith* decision.

The Smith decision evoked a strong reaction from the religious community, as well as many constitutional scholars. That resulted in the formation of the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion, a collection of 68 religious and civil-liberties groups representing nearly every point on the political and theological spectrum.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a chief co-sponsor of the bill, acknowledged the diversity of supporting groups, "including the

National Association of Evangelicals, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the American Civil Liberties Union, Concerned Women for America, People for the American Way, the American Jewish Committee, and the U.S. Catholic Conference."

"These organizations don't agree on much," Kennedy said, "but they do agree on the need to pass the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a chief co-sponsor, described the measure as "one of the most significant pieces of legislation in support of religious freedom to ever come before Congress."

"This bill is important to our country because it restores to every American the precious balance conceived by our founding fathers between the interests of our government and the religious liberties of our citizens," he added.

Washington University's cloning of human embryos stirs ethical concerns

By Louis Moore

clone rabbits.

The report said, however, the human embryos were abnormal and did not develop into human beings. Even though the technique failed after it first succeeded, it indicates the process is possible within a few years, school representatives said.

Cloning is a process of splitting embryos into twins, triplets, or quadruplets. Animal breeders have used the process for a number of years. The term "cloning" has been popularized in science fiction movies and books for decades, but

SBC CP gifts below budget

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for the first month of the 1993-94 fiscal year were .46% above receipts for October of last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

However, the \$10,879,698 total for October was below the new budget requirement for the month of \$11,519,561, or a 5.55% deficit. October 1992 CP total was \$10,830,045.

Designated gifts for October totaled \$1,531,826 compared to October 1992 of \$2,100,758 or a 27.08% reduction.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of sup-

porting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger, and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

"The notion of producing a child for replacement parts is deeply troubling," Mitchell said. "We should resist every effort to view human beings or their body parts as commodities which can be easily replaced. Human beings simply are not to be used as a means to an end."

Moore writes for CLC.



Covered by the cross

Ministers from across the state gathered Oct. 24 to mark the opening of three days of Mission Mississippi rallies by raising the cross of Christ before a crowd of onlookers at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson. The dream of Mission Mississippi was born of two men's longstanding interracial friendship. The project seeks to promote reconciliation among the diverse racial, ethnic, and denominational groups that make up the modern-day Christian church. For more information about the ongoing project, contact the Mission Mississippi office at P.O. 22655, Jackson, MS 39225. Telephone (601) 353-MISS. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Missouri Baptists debate issues, enter into Belarus, Wyoming partnerships

JOPLIN, Mo. (BP) — Social and denominational issues dominated business during the 159th annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention Oct. 25-27. Convention messengers, also voted to enter into three-year partnership missions projects with Wyoming Southern Baptists and Baptists in the former Soviet republic of Belarus.

Messengers approved a resolution entitled "On Maintaining Trust with the Cooperative Program," which affirmed the plan "as the primary means by which the convention provides financial support for its agencies and ministries."

The \$15.2 million 1994 budget approved by messengers calls for 64.75% of contributions to be distributed to MBC causes, with

35.25% to be sent to the Cooperative Program. The budget total and CP percentages were unchanged from 1993 levels.

T.O. Spicer Jr., director of missions for Spring River Association in Joplin, was elected convention president with 63% of the total vote over Hallsville pastor Ralph Sawyer. Spicer had served as convention first vice president during 1993.

Other officers elected include Paul L. Brooks, pastor of First Church, Raytown, first vice president; Norman Mohr, bivocational pastor of Maryland Heights Church, St. Louis, second vice president; and Ann Mary Gilbert, a member of First Church, Poplar Bluff, secretary.

GAs, Acteens gather at BMC

Girls in Action (GA) and Acteens are invited to Blue Mountain College Nov. 13 for GA/Acteens Day. Registration will begin at 11 a.m. Activities include a basketball game, lunch, missionary speaker, cheerleaders, speakers, and special music. The event will conclude after the basketball game, around 4 p.m.

Cost is \$7.50 each. GAs, grades 1-6, and Acteens, grades 7-12, and their leaders are encouraged to come join the fun. Please send name of church, address, telephone number, name of a contact person, and \$7.50 per person to Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call (601) 968-3800 for more information. Registration deadline is Nov. 10.

Baptist Record avoids price hike

Many religious papers and magazines have announced major subscription price increases. The Baptist Record is pleased to announce that its subscription rates for 1994 will remain the same: \$5.40 per year on the Every Family Plan; \$6.25 on the Church Budget Plan; and \$7.35 for individual subscription.

The full impact of postal increases will be scattered over six years,

at 2% per year (see "Non-profit mail reform," page 2). The Baptist Record will simply pass on this increase to its subscribers as it occurs.

Rates for display advertising in 1994 will reflect an increase of up to 6%, bringing The Baptist Record in line with other SBC state papers' advertising rates. Classified rates and Church Page fees will also remain the same in 1994. — GH

SBC seminary enrollment up 8% for fall '93 semester

FORT WORTH (BP) — The number of students enrolled in courses for credit at the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries is up 8% this fall, according to officials from the schools. Five of the seminaries reported increases ranging from 28% to 3%. Only one school saw its enrollment drop.

"This report is encouraging for the seminaries and for Southern Baptists," said Russell H. Dilday, president of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, and current chairman of the Seminary Presidents Council.

The largest increase came at New Orleans Seminary, which saw a 28% jump this fall. That increase reflects an 88% increase in the seminary's baccalaureate and pre-baccalaureate programs, which grew from 269 students last fall to 506 in 1993.

Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., each grew by 15%. Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., reported a 10% increase followed by Southwestern at 3%.

Southern Seminary was the only seminary of the six which reported a decline. Officials at the Louisville, Ky., school reported a 4% drop for the fall semester.

Overall, the six seminaries reported a total of 9,136 students enrolled in courses for academic credit, an increase of 650 students

from 1992. That figure is the total non-duplicating student headcount.

Individual seminary fall enrollments are: Southwestern — 3,458; Southern — 1,807; New Orleans — 1,682; Golden Gate — 966; Southeastern — 688; and Midwestern — 535.

In addition to students enrolled

in credit courses, the seminaries reported 30,942 people took classes for no credit. That number represents people enrolled in continuing education programs, lay study seminars, and other programs sponsored by the six seminaries. Southwestern reported the largest headcount in those categories, with 23,743 participants.

Budget shortfall spurs CP drop by Kansas-Nebraska

LIBERAL, Kan. (BP) — Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptists were challenged to "Serve in Christ's Spirit" during their 48th annual meeting Oct. 25-27 at First Southern Baptist Church, Liberal, Kan.

A total of 312 messengers and more than 150 visitors heard challenges from Bible study leader Henry Blackaby, Home Mission Board's director of prayer and spiritual awakening.

Carl Garrett, who had served for two years as KNCSB vice president, was chosen as the new president by acclamation. Garrett is pastor of Emmanuel Church, Overland Park, Kan.

Also elected by acclamation were the vice president, Neal Alford, pastor of First Church, Douglass, Kan., and historian, James Shope, pastor of Calvary Church, Columbus, Kan. Bryan

Jones, pastor of Wanamaker Road Church, Topeka, Kan., was chosen as recording secretary.

Messengers approved the 1994 KNCSB budget of \$3,738,744, for a 1.9% increase over 1993. A total of \$1,947,492 is anticipated to come from Cooperative Program receipts from Kansas-Nebraska churches.

Due to a projected budget shortfall, messengers voted to reduce giving to the national Cooperative Program from 32.5% to 30%. The convention's finances will be reviewed quarterly in 1994 to see if Cooperative Program giving can be increased, with the goal of getting back to 32.5%, said R. Rex "Peck" Lindsay, KNCSB executive director.

Messengers heard presentations about KNCSB's two new missions partnerships, with Nevada and Jordan.

BSSB to conduct legal issues seminar

NASHVILLE (BP) — Can churches be sued for the sexual misconduct of their ministers?

Are churches liable for injuries sustained by members and visitors on church property?

How does the Americans with Disabilities Act affect churches' hiring and firing practices?

These are only a few of the questions to be addressed at the "Legal Issues in The Church" seminar April 25-28, 1994, at the Baptist Sunday School Board headquarters in Nashville.

"Churches are being sued and pastors and church leaders need to be aware of that," said Jim Ryan, church business administration consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board and coordinator of the seminar.

"This conference will offer the latest information on important legal issues, some practical ideas for avoiding lawsuits, and an opportunity for church leaders to get their legal questions answered," Ryan added.

A variety of topics will be addressed at the seminar, Ryan said, such as child abuse, sexual misconduct/harassment, employment law, hiring and firing practices, taxes, child care law, copyright law, and many other legal issues.

One of the key seminar leaders will be Richard Hammer, editor of Church Law and Tax Report, a bimonthly publication which pro-

vides legal and tax information for thousands of denominational and church leaders across the United States. Hammer, whom Ryan described as "one of the leading authorities on church law in the country," has written several books, including: Pastor, Church & Law, The Church and Clergy Tax Guide, and The Church Guide to Copyright Law.

Other seminar leaders will include Julie Bloss, an attorney for the Annuity Board; Jim Guenther, general counsel for the SBC Executive Committee; and Jim O'Dillon, minister of education and administration at Ooltewah Church in Ooltewah, Tenn.

The cost of the seminar is \$67 and the meeting is "open to any-

BWA's Allen will speak at Jones meeting

A Baptist Women's Day of Prayer will be held Nov. 7 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Elmo Church in Laurel. The annual event is co-sponsored by the Jones Associational WMU and local National Baptist Women. Catherine Allen, president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, and former associate executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, will be the featured speaker.

one in the church who has administrative and personnel responsibilities," Ryan said.

For registration information, call the BSSB church program training center at (615) 251-2294.



Newly-elected officers of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) of Mississippi include (back row, from left) L. Dean Shanks secretary-treasurer; Kay Travis, heritage chairperson; Mary Jean Padgett, nursing student liaison chairperson; (second row, from left) Shirley Chapman, missionary nurse liaison chairperson; Kaye Wilson, president-elect; (front row, from left) Ashley McCaleb, WMU liaison; and Vicki McCall, president. BNF provides Christian professional fellowship among nurses and student nurses. For more information, contact McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Baptist Book Store relocates to new center in north Jackson, closes old Westland Plaza site



Dana Reese (standing) and Christa Horton, both of whom work for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, arrange merchandise on shelves of the new Baptist Book Store in north Jackson. Reese, Horton, and a number of other board employees were in town last week to help local book store workers meet the Nov. 1 opening date for the new store. High expectations accompany the opening of the new store, located along County Line Road in one of the fastest-growing retail areas of metro Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

We have just found out that our 25-year-old son has been a homosexual and wants to come out of the gay lifestyle. Is this possible?

The media would have us believe homosexuals are born that way. Scientific evidence is inconclusive to this point. Scriptures tell us we were created male and female, and to avoid homosexuality. Your son's decision to come out of the gay lifestyle is a difficult choice — one he cannot do alone. That he told you is a cry for help and assistance. He needs your encouragement, prayers, and support. Find out what his goals and dreams are, then pray and earnestly look for appropriate role models. This may include godly men who can see homosexuality as a search for masculinity rather than just sexual perversion. When we understand homosexuality is a search for meaning due to voids in one's life, then we in the Christian community must become involved in not only preaching truth but being the love of God to those who are hurting, angry, in sin, and afraid. Love your son and walk with him through this decision as he becomes a man after God's own heart.

I am single and a college graduate. I have to support

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Baptist Book Store manager Eddy Perry could have posed as a circus juggler last week as finishing touches were being added to the store's new location in north Jackson.

From painters who left windows undone to waste dumpsters filled to capacity, Perry, 28, and his staff found themselves juggling a host of small details that had to be addressed in time for the store's Nov. 1 opening in Ridgewood Court shopping center, just off County Line Road and not far from Interstate 55 North.

The venerable old book store in Westland Plaza shopping center was closed to make way for the new 10,000 square-foot facility in the heart of Jackson's growth pathway.

Perry said the retail division of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville, which oversees the denomination's 63 book stores nationwide, wants to use the Jackson store as part of a plan to develop a prototype design. The process is already underway in Albuquerque and Fort Worth stores.

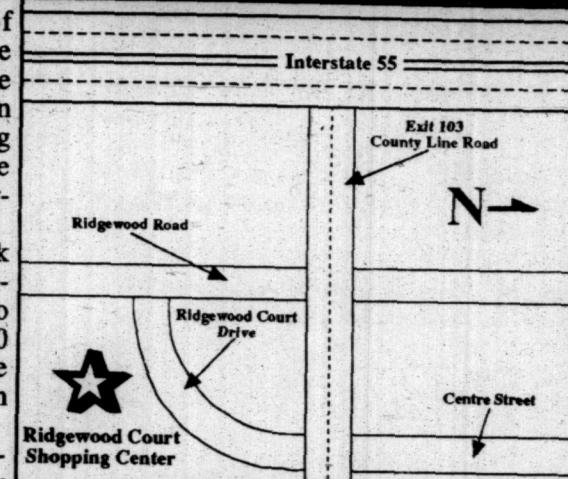
"What do we want the book stores to become? We're trying

By William H. Perkins Jr.

new ways of merchandising, such as feature areas in each department that allow customers to focus on certain items that will be highlighted," he said.

The book store is also expanding shopping hours and will now

Baptist Book Store



be open from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. — an additional 22 hours each week, he added.

Perry, a Texas native and Baylor University graduate, transferred to Jackson in March of this year from the book store in Baltimore. Since joining BSSB in February of 1989, he has worked in book stores in Houston (Texas),

Miami, and Fort Lauderdale, as well as Baltimore. He's excited about what he sees at the new Jackson location.

"We want to be available and accessible to Christian shoppers. For example, there is a church program department, distinct from the main part of the book store, so that church staff can spend as much time as they need in making their selections," he said.

Above all, Perry pointed out, the goal of the book store will always be to honor Christ.

"We are here to enhance the kingdom of God. We want to distinguish ourselves by that standard, and I have encouraged the staff to understand that," he said.

As the only Baptist Book Store in Mississippi, Perry acknowledges the importance of that mission.

"Each day starts with a devotion and prayer. We want our service every day committed to God," he said.

The new address for the Jackson Baptist Book Store is 6380 Ridgewood Court, Suite K, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 977-9676. Fax telephone number is (601) 977-9686.

Mississippi WMU team returns from Alaska after partnership mission work

By Sharon Neff

Palmer. The group also journeyed to churches in Kenai and Homer.

While leadership training was the main task, fellowship with the Alaskan women turned out to be most meaningful.

"Some of these churches are so small and so far apart, and the turnover in leadership is so frequent, that one of the best things we did was encourage these ladies to do the best with what they had," said Patterson.

"One pastor was so hungry for 'southern' fellowship. We didn't get to spend as much time with him and his family as we would have liked, but maybe it helped to talk to us for just a little while," she added.

Most of the conference groups were small, but that added to the warm atmosphere and one-on-one training. Approximately 60 women were trained during the week of the conferences.

Lest anyone think the trip was all work and no play, the distance between churches left time for sightseeing and shopping. The team even got to do some Christmas shopping at Santa Claus House in North Pole, Alaska.

Other unique experiences included sampling reindeer sausage soup (sorry, Rudolph) and panning for gold.

The scenery was breathtaking,

with snow-covered mountains overlooking valleys with fall-colored trees and rushing whitewater streams. Compared to the weather the women left in Mississippi, the Alaskan weather was cold. But it was "iced tea" weather up there, according to one waiter.

The vast beauty of the state was felt by each team member but was difficult to capture on film.

The women returned to Jackson on Sept. 26, weary but already savoring the memories of a worthwhile mission trip.

Neff is WMU director, Washington Association.



Mississippi WMU team members who recently returned from a partnership mission trip to Alaska include (from left) Marjean Patterson, Sharon Neff, Kay Cassibry, Helen Price, and Jan Cossitt.



MEMPHIS — Robert Hill (second from left), pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland, was recently re-elected chairman of the Brotherhood Commission's board of trustees. Joining Hill are (from left) John Whitman of Illinois, recording secretary; James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission; and Donley Brown of Missouri, vice chairman. (Photo by David Nester)

Brotherhood trustees approve statement, choose Hill chairman

MEMPHIS (BP) — Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved an enlargement of the agency's Purpose and Program Statement at their Oct. 22-23 meeting that officials said would "clarify and strengthen" the commission's working relationships with other Southern Baptist agencies.

However, the new document's guiding principle — that the Brotherhood Commission's purpose is to "help churches involve their members, primarily men and boys, in missions" — remains unchanged.

The new statement will be presented to state convention executive directors and leaders of other SBC agencies for their comments, and then to the Executive Committee in February 1994. Upon approval, the statement will be considered by SBC messengers in Orlando, Fla., next June.

The trustees also approved a

request of \$1,074,904 from the basic Southern Baptist Cooperative Program budget for the budget year 1994-95, representing a 10% increase over the 1993-94 allocation.

"I realize this is a significant increase," said James D. Williams, commission president. "I made this request based on the fact that our volunteers' work alone last year saved Southern Baptists at least \$100 million in construction and personnel costs, which approaches the amount received by all of the SBC agencies from the Cooperative Program."

The trustees also elected new officers. They are Bob Hill, pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland, chairman; Donley Brown, retired military management analyst, Jefferson City, Mo., vice-chairman; and John Whitman, retired state Brotherhood director, Springfield, Ill., recording secretary.

Lay Missions Conference scheduled November 15

The 1993 Lay Missions Conference, "Going Into Your Marketplace," will be held Nov. 15 at First Church in Jackson. The purpose of the conference, which is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is to explore ways to extend Christ's kingdom through marketplace ministry.

The conference will begin at 3 p.m. with the convening of missions fellowships: agri-missions, campers, educational, construction, and church renewal. Interest conferences, also beginning at 3 p.m., include Crisis Alert Response Training, partnership missions, beginning an intercessory prayer ministry, and beginning a jail ministry.

Mississippian Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and Nathan J. Porter, assistant director of church/community ministries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be the featured speakers at the 5 p.m. missions banquet.

Cost of the banquet is \$7.50 per person. Preschool care will be provided 1 p.m.-6:45 p.m. (no meal service). Reservations for the banquet and preschool care must be made by Nov. 10. For more information or to send in reservations, contact the Brotherhood Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Texas Baptists reject defunding Baylor, elect McBride president

DALLAS (BP) — Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas for the second year in a row decisively rejected attempts to defund Baylor University and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, overwhelmingly adopting a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program budget for 1994.

The 108th annual BGCT, which drew more than 5,200 registered messengers to the Dallas Convention Center, Oct. 25-26, also elected Jerold McBride, pastor of First Church, San Angelo, as president. McBride received 3,142 votes, and Wayne Allen, pastor of First Church, Carrollton, received 1,539 votes.

Messengers elected Maurice Johnston of First Church, San Antonio, as first vice president. David Becker, pastor of University Heights Church in Huntsville, was elected second vice president. McBride, Johnston, and Becker all had been endorsed by the Baylor Alumni Association and the moderate Texas Baptists Committed organization.

By an overwhelming margin, messengers defeated an amendment to the budget which would have reduced from \$4.05 million to \$1.78 million the allocation for Baylor University and distributed the balance proportionately to other Texas Baptist schools.

The 1994 Cooperative Program budget for missionary, benevolent, and educational causes includes a

two-phase \$5.3 million challenge budget above the basic requirements for a total \$68.8 million giving goal.

Funds will be distributed according to a formula that again sends 36.65% of undesignated Cooperative Program receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention for worldwide causes. The 63.35% retained in Texas provides support for state missions, eight universities, seven hospital systems, and homes for children and the aging in multiple locations.

In his post-election news conference, newly elected BGCT President McBride said Texas Baptists need to "stay on the right track and not get distracted" by controversy. He pledged to be inclusive in his appointments, saying he had "no campaign, no hidden agenda, no vendetta against anybody."

"Don't mess with Texas. We don't need that here," he said of the 15-year-long controversy within the national Southern Baptist Convention.

Rather than focusing on the avenues of missions support — whether through the SBC or the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship — Texas Baptists should continue emphasizing the work of missions and evangelism, said McBride, pastor of the San Angelo church for the last 23 years.

"I'm a pretty radical pragmatist" when it comes to reaching

people with the gospel, he said.

First Church, San Angelo, supports the Texas Baptist missions causes through the Cooperative Program unified budget, but it gives members the option of directing their worldwide missions support through either the Southern Baptist Executive Committee or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In 1992, from the church the Baptist General Convention of Texas received \$82,599 for its causes; SBC Cooperative Program causes received \$10,543; and \$47,786 went through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"Don't fence me in," characterizes his church's brand of West Texas rugged individualism and his own views on political labels, McBride said.

Rejecting any "top-down" church hierarchy, McBride said, "It's none of my business or my concern how your church chooses to give its missions support.

"The Texas Baptist Convention is not a farm team of the SBC. The SBC doesn't make Texas Baptists possible. Texas Baptists make the SBC possible."

McBride rejected the "moderate" label, saying, he could "out-fundamentalize any fundamentalist."

"I don't ever want to be considered anything other than a theological conservative," McBride said.

"Thanks so much for the excellent reporting — it's our best source of information, timely and accurate."

— Fred and Sue Massengill
Missionaries to Senegal

The Baptist Record
is mailed free to missionaries in these countries



Angola	Denmark	Portugal
Argentina	Ecuador	Puerto Rico
Australia	England	Russia
Austria	Ethiopia	Singapore
Bangladesh	France	South Africa
Barbados	Germany	Switzerland
Bolivia	Ghana	Taiwan
Brazil	Guatemala	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Honduras	The Gambia
Burundi	Hong Kong	Togo
Canada	Hungary	Uruguay
Chile	Indonesia	Venezuela
China	Israel	Zambia
Colombia	Italy	Zimbabwe
Costa Rica	Ivory Coast	

Clinton pastor's mother dies

Maudye R. Baker, mother of Bill Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton, died Oct. 25 at the Pontotoc Hospital. She was 87. The retired teacher and retired circuit clerk for Pontotoc County was a member of First Church, Pontotoc.

Services were last week at Browning Funeral Home, Pontotoc, with burial in Shady Grove Cemetery.

Thanks to your support of the
Cooperative Program

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 4, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



PRESCHOOLERS AND TRENDS OF THE 90's

By Charles Bridgers
Preschool Consultant
Baptist Sunday School Board

Talking about trends of the 90's involves not looking into a crystal ball, but observing "what's happening" and asking what this has to do with churches ministering to preschoolers and their families. Some 90's trends to examine include: *Cocooning, Small Indulgences (affluence), Me-ness, Cashing Out, Surviving, and Saving Our World.*

Cocooning is staying at home with our VCRs, ordering home-delivered foods, and ordering from our mail-order catalogs. Implications for preschoolers may deal with the who and how of reaching these families (both churched and unchurched) and the safety and security of preschool rooms at church.

How do we work with preschoolers (and parents) who are showered with everything they could want? Training in positive guidance and quality Bible teaching for preschoolers is essential. How about where we place directional signs to the preschool area and to the worship center? How can a Parents' Night Out help?

When parents are involved in "me-ness", wanting a personalization of "services" (including learning/growth opportunities at church) what do we do in preschool? "Cute" Bible teaching is not the answer as parents are looking for long-term experiences. Active teaching (Deut. 6:5-7) with first-hand experiences can be the solution.

A trend is developing to slow down and get back to the basics. Faith Popcorn (The Popcorn Report) calls it "cashing out." The appeal of smaller churches to these families has implications to many of our churches. "Old fashioned" ways and ideas may be the answer to this developing trend. The honesty and readiness of basic methods and information are attractive.

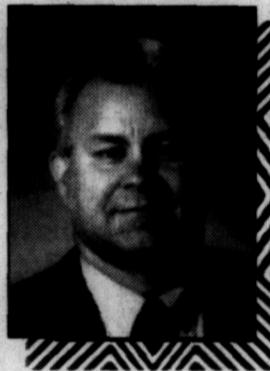
Continued on back of **HOUSETOPS**

God is not SILENT ... are you listening?

Youth Evangelism Conference

December 27-28, 1993

Mississippi College Coliseum



Ken Smith



Neil
McClendon

Point of
Grace



Anna Hutto



May & Way

Begins 1:15 p.m. Monday
Concludes 3:40 p.m. Tuesday

Registration Fee: \$5.00 per person
SEE REGISTRATION ON BACK OF HOUSETOPS

Register by December 15, 1993, for a complimentary breakfast provided by Mississippi College

pray this day

foreign missions - exciting and routine, glamorous and mundane, daring and boring, a paradoxical kind of life - all things working together for good to those called according to His purpose.

for those of us who are called to stay it's more exciting and glamorous and daring to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions when we have shared the excitement and glamour and daring of foreign missions as we have prayed.

our denomination helps us know how to pray by giving us a wealth of information about our missionaries, their work and the people they work with...these two weeks we'll be praying toward the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, November 28 - December 5...plan during that week to enjoy your church's Week of Prayer plans.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
for Christians in the more than 150 countries to which Southern Baptists relate in trying to make it possible for every person alive to hear the gospel by 2000 AD 21	for the nearly 4,000 missionaries and more than 10,000 volunteers who are doing their part to Change the World Now! 22	for the 251,901 people who were baptized through our foreign missions work in 1992 23	for members of the 56,686 churches and chapels which span the globe because of the work of Southern Baptist missionaries and for the 3,450,900 members of these churches and chapels 24	for Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, and his wife Bobbie as he leads in the foreign missions work of our denomination, and for all those who work with him 18	that we will reach our national Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$85 million, that each of us will be willing to give up something to give more to this offering 19	that while we help to Change the World Now! in praying for and giving to foreign missions we will remember to be witnesses to Change the World Now! right where we live 20
for churches who begin the observance of the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions today and continue through next Sunday 28	for music missionaries whose work is more harmonious because Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds will provide hymn books and other helps in music programs 29	for the 15,365,486 Southern Baptists whose per capita gift to 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was \$5.27, that we will be more generous this year 30	LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING National Goal: \$85 million		for people who use their mental abilities to translate the Bible into the languages of the countries which do not have the Bible in their language or dialect 25	for people who use the marvels of our electronic age to design, produce and distribute materials to speed up our Bold Mission Thrust 26
				<i>from the Prayer Ministry office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205 Phone 968-3800 Ext. 3904 Miss. Prayerline 1-800-787-PRAY</i>		

Lay Missions Conference

*Marketplace Ministry:
“Going Into Your Marketplace”*

The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

*November 15, 1993
First Baptist Church, Jackson
Conference: 3:00 p.m.
Banquet: 5:00 p.m.*

*Sponsored by the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

Lay Missions Conference

“Going Into Your Marketplace” is the theme of this year’s Lay Missions Conference which precedes the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The conference will feature Mississippian Jerry Rankin, elected this year as president of the Foreign Mission Board. He is a former missionary to the Philippines, Indonesia, and India.

The meeting takes place Monday, Nov. 15, at First Church, Jackson, the day before the convention begins.

Joining Rankin on the program will be Nathan Porter, assistant director of the Home Mission Board’s Church/Community Ministries Department. His specialty is domestic hunger.

Rankin and Porter will speak during a banquet which begins at 5 p.m. and costs \$7.50 per person.

Reservations may be obtained from the Brotherhood Department, 968-3800. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 10.

Earlier in the day, at 3 p.m., a series of meetings for the mission fellowships and for special interest groups will take place. The missions fellowship groups include Agri-Missions, Campers on Mission, Educational Missions, Construction Missions, and Church Renewal.

The special interest sessions will relate to Partnership Missions, Beginning Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Beginning Jail Ministry, and CART, which stands for Crisis Alert Response Training. CART is for anyone interested in knowing more about how to respond to and support disaster relief work.

There will be preschool care from 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. for those who notify the Brotherhood Department. No meal service will be provided in the preschool center. □

**WHAT ONE ITEM IS MORE
MISSISSIPPI CHURCHES USING
THAN EVER
BEFORE TO
DETAIL PLANS
FOR REACHING
PEOPLE FOR
CHRIST?**



More Mississippi churches than ever before are using the Growth Spiral to plan details of 13 different actions that result in reaching people for Christ.

Randy Tompkins, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the MBCB, recently stated "For years church leaders have labored under a misconception that a program would cause their church to reach people. Only in the last couple of years have church leaders realized the Growth Spiral is a simple tool to aide them in developing plans to reach people for Christ. Every Mississippi church that is properly using the Growth Spiral is seeing an increase in Baptisms and attendance!"

If you are interested in learning more about the details of how to use the Growth Spiral as a planning tool, plan to attend the seventh annual state-wide Growth Spiral Conference, Feb. 22 at Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. The conference will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. You can receive more information about the Growth Spiral Conference by contacting the Sunday School Department (968-3800 or P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205). The conference will be limited to the first 200 church leaders that pre-register. □

**CHURCH MEDIA
LIBRARY CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 12-13
FIRST BAPTIST MADISON**

The annual Church Media Library conference takes place Nov. 12-13 at First Church, Madison. Leaders include Danny Ayala, Stephen Gately, and Pat Brown, all of the Church Media Library Program of the Baptist Sunday School board; plus Elizabeth Horton, CML director of Haywood Hills Church, Nashville; Bo Prosser, associate minister at Forest Hills Church, Raleigh; and Peggy Tacon, CML director of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile.

Courses offered include such topics as basic and advanced classification and cataloging, book repair, how to process media, making and maintaining audio-visuals, and operating a tape ministry.

Cost is \$10 per person. Contact the Broadcast Services Department at 968-3800 for further details. □

**Take an Old Testament
journey...step by step**

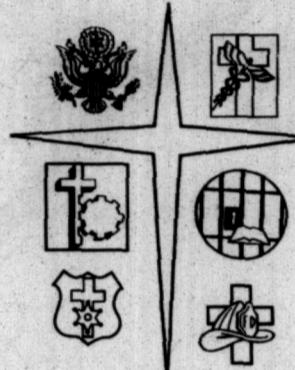
In the Old Testament God has revealed Himself, His purposes, and His ways so that His people may know Him and experience life to its fullest. Now you have a unique opportunity to take an Old Testament journey, participating in its message, events, people, places and themes.

Step by Step Through the Old Testament surveys the

Old Testament, offering you a foundation for understanding and interpreting the Old Testament. This 13-session LIFE course also leads you to respond to the timeless truths of the Old Testament.

Take an Old Testament journey. Step by Step Through the Old Testament resources include a member's book (items 7602-71), a leader's guide (item 7606-71), and optional videotapes (item 8640-81). Order from the customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772. □

—CHAPLAINS BANQUET—



November 16

Baptist Building, Jackson

4:45 - 6:30 p.m.

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association are invited to attend the Annual Banquet on November 16. George Pickle, Director of Healthcare Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling for the Home Mission Board, will be

the guest speaker. George has served as a journeyman in Vietnam and as a BSU director, pastor and chaplain in California. He is a native of Tyler, Texas.

Music will be provided by R.L. and Beth Sigrest, sacred music artists from Yazoo City. In addition to their concert and revival schedule, they appear on many conference and convention wide programs. They have sung in over 1200 churches around the world. R.L. and Beth incorporate their many talents to present a blending of music to meet the tastes of all who listen.

The deadline for banquet registration is November 10. For additional information about the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association, contact Richard Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department.



Preschoolers cont.

aving our world is a trend dealing not just with the environment, but with education and ethics. Preschoolers are experiencing basic opportunities for growth as they learn through Bible-related activities. Well-prepared teachers versed in listening to and in answering questions of preschoolers on a growing list of concerns) are in the position to help the preschoolers of the 90's develop an application of the Bible to everyday life. A teacher's attitude and especially his model is vital in addressing this trend. Also this trend calls for a

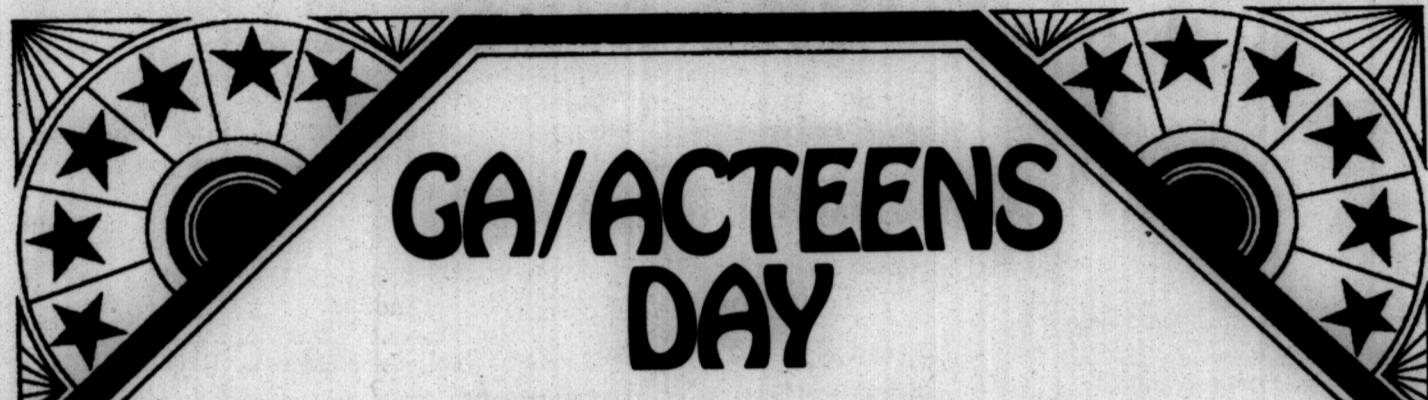
"teamness" of preschool and adult teachers in reaching families in the 90's.

These and other trends address such areas as teacher enlistment, lawsuits against churches (preschool operations), honesty in teaching and ministering to preschoolers, parents wanting real (quality) Bible teaching, preschool hygiene and safety, and even Vacation Bible School themes.

Tapping into trends is not trying to predict the future, but observing the life styles of our members and our community "field". □

WANTED CHURCH FURNISHINGS

Anyone having church furnishings which could be donated to a new mission work, may contact the Cooperative Missions Department, 968-3800. Needed are a Lord's Supper table, piano, pews, and any other church furniture.



GA/ACTEENS DAY

Blue Mountain College
November 13

**Missionary
Special Features**

**Basketball
Cheerleaders**

Music

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
\$7.50 each (includes: basketball game, meals, limited insurance)
Registration Begins at 11:00 a.m.
Game begins at 2:00 p.m.

GA/ACTEENS DAY AT BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Church _____ Association _____
Address _____ Age Group Totals: _____
City _____ Zip _____ # GA's _____
Contact Person _____ # Acteens _____
Daytime Phone # () _____ # Leaders _____
People _____ x \$7.50 per person + \$ _____
(Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union) (Amount Enclosed)

Mail to: GA/Acteens Day, Woman's Missionary Union,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
Deadline: November 10, 1993

REGISTRATION Youth Evangelism Conference

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

Association _____

Phone _____

Number attending _____

Address During Conference _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

(list additional names on back)

Make check payable to: MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CONVENTION BOARD • \$5 PER PERSON

Signed _____

Position _____

Evangelism Department

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P. O. Box 530 •

Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601)968-3800



Letters to the editor



Will still minister

Editor:

Please allow me the opportunity to say a very grateful heartfelt "Thank You" to those many, many people I've been privileged to serve these past few years as the sales coordinator of the Baptist Book Store here in Jackson. There were many wonderful experiences during those years with many opportunities in ministry.

My retirement from the [Baptist Sunday School] Board was effective Oct. 1, but I do not feel this is the final chapter to my ministry that has now spanned three and a half decades. In keeping with that thought, I will be available for supply preaching, interim work, and study course teaching.

Keep up the good work there. I'm an avid reader of *The Baptist Record*. I depend on you and your staff for a publication that

lifts up the Lord Jesus and glorifies our Father. I appreciate your ministry!

James S. Allen
Jackson

Winters a great loss

Editor:

On Sept. 29, Mississippi and Southern Baptists lost one of its giants with the death of Frances Winters. I came to know Frances

Winters in 1988 when she consented for me to write my doctoral dissertation about her and her influence in Southern Baptist music ministry. Frances Winters was among the earliest Southern Baptists to have fully-graded choirs when she was co-minister of music at First Church, Atlanta. In 1942, she began a School of Church Music at Southern Seminary. From 1956-74, she taught at William Carey College. Her classes in music and worship made life-long impressions on her students. I often meet William Carey graduates who were strongly influenced by her teaching and her life's example. Frances Winters' influence will live on in the lives of those of us whose lives she touched. Our responsibility to share her legacy is great.

C. Randall Bradley
Asst. professor of church music
Midwestern Seminary
Kansas City, Mo.

No more us vs. them

Editor:

This letter is in response to two articles in the Oct. 21 edition of [*The Baptist Record*]. The first article is "Baptists starting more black churches."

I completely understand that African Americans, and every other race for that matter, need to be reached for Jesus. I do not, however, understand how that need constitutes starting more "black" churches. In today's world, we as Christians should not segregate ourselves. Why should we not go out and bring these people into our "white" churches?

In the lead article about blacks converting to Islam, one reason given was that no characters in church literature were minorities. I think if we start "black" churches instead of bringing all of us together under one roof, more blacks will turn to the Islam religion. This does not need to happen. We need to be brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter what race, and we need to worship together. I am most certain that we as white people could learn a lot about worship from other races if we would only let them into "our" congregation.

Teri Rainey
Clinton

Truth not exclusive

Editor:

Almost any article I read about the Southern Baptist Convention leaves me dismayed, depressed, and disgusted!

I professed faith in Jesus Christ more than 41 years ago. There was trouble and strife in the convention back then. People still made efforts to work together. Now it seems everyone has their own position perfected in their own mind, and it is all written in stone. If you will talk to different left-wing folks you won't hear the same (uniform)

opinions or ideology. If you talk to the right-wing extremists, (so-called) they don't all think the same. The so-called moderates vary greatly in their theology and opinions.

I read the Bible. I find where God planned this. The universe, people, trees, animals, birds, insects, and all. I find where God and his Son planned and made a way for lost mankind to be reconciled to God.

I find in the Old Testament where Moses went up to receive the Ten Commandments and the people turned to the worship of a golden calf! Could it be that each of these groups has turned to their own "golden calf," as it were, rather than God and his Word?

I would also like to say that genuine Bible Christianity is not limited to any group and I believe that an emphasis on Bible-centered Christianity would be more profitable than a fighting, griping, convention that acts like spoiled children.

J.P. Leach
Blue Springs

Where is our faith?

Editor:

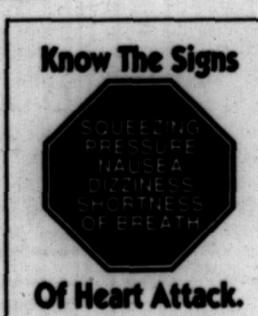
To those who ask, "What if Mary...?" may I ask, "Where is thy faith?"

If people today had the faith of Mary, there would not be any woman who would ever think of an abortion. And if we men had love for our spouses like Joseph, there would never be a divorce or a child born to an unwed mother. Mary and Joseph believed in God with undying faith.

How can anyone who professes to be a Christian even think of questioning Mary's faith in God? She asked, "How can this be? I have known no man," and after the angel explained it to her, the plan of God for the salvation of mankind, she humbled herself as a handmaid of God and praised God for it.

Instead of questioning Mary's faith, why not ask where is our faith, and start trying to live our lives in faith that God is almighty, the great I Am. When we doubt Mary's faith, are we questioning God's ability? Where is thy faith? Is this why the world continues to die and go to hell? Has our faith become so small that we are not willing to stand up for God and be a witness for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Thomas W. Martin
Batesville



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Thursday, November 4, 1993

Just for the Record



Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, held a recognition service for its GAs (above) on Oct. 17. Brenda Westbrook is director.



GAs of Center Terrace Church, Canton, were honored in May. Pictured, they are Trish Springer, Jennifer White, Ashley Hart, and Lauren Hart. Betty King is director.

Bethel Church, New Albany, will host its 8th annual Bible Conference on Nov. 7-10. Services on Monday begin at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Harvey Reeves, pastor of Bethel Church, 534-2394.

Liberty Church, Union County Association, celebrated its 155th anniversary Sept. 26. In all these years the church has been debt free. Two churches have branched off from Liberty Church: Cherry Creek, Pontotoc Association; and First Church, Union County Association. Both of these churches celebrated their 150th anniversaries this year. There have been 72 additions to the church in the past three years. Mike Powell is pastor.

Brodie Road Church, Biloxi, will host the first annual Gulf Coast Fulness in Christ Conference, Nov. 14-18, 7 p.m. each



First Church, Newton, recently held a service for its Acteens. Pictured, from left, Beth Garvin, Kimberly Pace, Joanna Gunter, and Jessica Carr were crowned Queens and Queens Regent in Service. Frank Harmon is pastor.

evening. Jim and Jane Hylton and Richard and Cheryl Shropshire will lead the conferences. Richard Shropshire is pastor.

Everett Church, Mendenhall, will host its January Bible Study on Nov. 14-19. The times are Sunday at 11 a.m. and Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. The speaker will be Don Savell of Philadelphia. William A. McWilliams is pastor.

Genesis, a finished silicone bronze sculpture, the work of Arthur Williams of the William Carey Art Department, was unveiled Oct. 24. The reception for the artist was held in the Chain Garden on the Hattiesburg campus. This sculpture is the first major piece cast specifically for William Carey College. It is also the first piece cast by Williams in the William Carey College art facilities on the Coast campus. Williams' work is included in collections in 25 states, Washington,

D.C., Canada, and Mexico. He is also the author of **Sculpture: Form and Content**, a widely used college-level textbook.

Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, recently received the largest Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions in its 90-year history. A goal of \$850 was set. An "All The Way In One Day" offering of \$1,376.97 was taken. John G. McCall is interim pastor and Mary Helen Reynolds is WMU director.

The Hoppers of Madison, N.C. will be in concert at Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, at 7 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Phillipston Church, Sidon, will have Harvest Day on Nov. 14. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. and worship at 11. Covered dish lunch will be served in fellowship hall at noon. The guest speaker will be Luther Lindsey.



GAs of Newhebron Church, Lawrence Association, recently attended the Mother/Daughter Retreat at Camp Garaywa. Pictured are the GAs and their mothers, from left, Jane Little, Kathryn and Lauren; Tanya Bridges and Ashley; Jeanine McCloud and Christy; Lynn Little, Alisha Davis and Rachel Little; Wanda Lee and Hope; and Rhonda Little and Bethany.



Oak Hill Church, Poplarville, sent 10 youths and four adults on a mission trip to Dauphin Island, Ala., this summer. While there, the group (pictured) visited several sites in Mobile, including a rescue mission, a juvenile boys' home, the international seaman center, and various neighborhoods to perform puppet shows. George Husk is pastor.



Girls In Action of Lexie Church, Walthall Association, recently held its Missions Adventures banquet. GAs who received badges for completing grade level workbooks, pictured from left, are Kim Conerly, Adventure 3; Amanda Hill, Adventure 3; Cassie Hilburn, Adventure 4; Jade Brock, Adventure 4; Kayla Brock, Adventure 4; Jennifer Conerly, Adventure 4; Karena Conerly, Adventure 5; Kamie Dillon, Adventure 4, and Aaron Conerly, Adventure 2. GA leaders were Lorey Alford and Betty Dillon this past year. David Bailey is pastor.

Shady Grove Church, Batesville, observed high attendance day Oct. 3 with 171 present, exceeding the previous high of 139. The young adult class won the highest attendance award. Discipleship Training also exceeded its previous high of 75 with 89 present. John Stewart is pastor.

Thrasher Church, Booneville, began rebuilding in July 1993. The church building was destroyed by fire on April 13, 1993. Services are presently being held in the Family Life Center, with some Sunday School classes in a mobile chapel. Charles E. Smith Jr. is pastor.

Shiloh Church, Alcorn County, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with an old fashion day on Nov. 7. Horace Thomas will preach in the morning service. There will be a church-wide dinner and singing in the afternoon with the Goodnewmen Quartet. Also, there will be a time of sharing church history and memories. Sammy McMillen is pastor.

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Missionary News

Richard and Martha Beal, missionaries to Venezuela, are on the field and can be addressed at POBA International #A371, P.O. Box 02-5255, Miami, FL 33102-5255. He is a native of Florida. The former Martha Lyle, she was born in Laurel and lived in Natchez.

Rachel DuBard, missionary to Liberia, is on the field (address: P.O. Box 10-1416, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia). She was born in Carroll County and lived in Jefferson.

Rickey and Lori Funderburk, missionaries to Sierra Leone, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 1085, Freetown, Sierra,

Leone). He is a native of Memphis. The former Lori Dean, she was born in Cleveland.

Allan and Sue Ellen Myers, missionaries to Nigeria, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 263, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria). Born in Mendenhall, he grew up in Nigeria and considers West Point his hometown. She is a native of New Iberia, La.

William and Carolyn Smith, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: c/o Immanuel Baptist Church, 510 Weathersby Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39402). He is a native of Amite County. She is a native of Orlando, Fla.

Hinson will give MC lecture

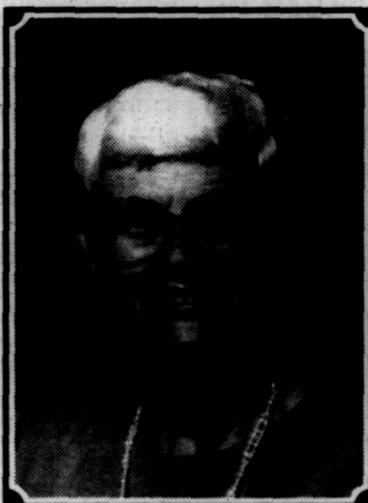
Richard Joiner, head of the Mississippi College Department of Music, announces the visiting concert artist for the 1993-94 Lyall Lectureship will be Maurice Hinson, professor of music at New Orleans Seminary.

Lyall was formerly head of MC's Department of Music, beginning in 1959, later becoming chairman of the Division of Fine Arts. He served the college until his retirement in 1983.

Hinson will present a lecture-

recital on Nov. 8 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Hall Auditorium. The lecture-recital will cover how humorous effects in music are obtained, such as unexpected, unusual, or sudden interruptions of the natural or customary order of things. Hinson will play piano selections to demonstrate. Additional topics will include mirth, merriment, and parody.

For further information contact the MC Music Department at 925-3440.



Where Your Heart Is

Carol Leigh Humphries gave 35 years of her life

as a Southern Baptist missionary in Nigeria. Most people would consider that a gracious plenty.

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Then she came home for retirement and lived frugally so she could continue to give. She set up a trust fund through the Foreign Mission Board's Development Office and donated half of her estate to the Lottie Moon offering.

She died last year but her witness lives on in Nigeria and around the world. There's no doubt where her heart was. Where's yours? Are you giving to the things that really matter?

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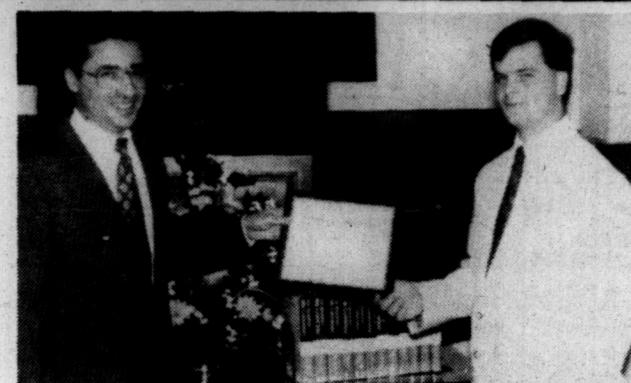
Thursday, November 4, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

Melanie Hughes and Julie Christine Bevell, both of Clinton, will be presented in a joint recital on Nov. 8, at 3 p.m. in Aven Hall Auditorium on Mississippi College campus. Hughes is the daughter of Gayden and Louette Hughes of Eupora and a member of Walthall Church. Bevell is the daughter of David and Claire Bevell of Olive Branch and belongs to Ridgeway Church, Memphis.

DALLAS, Texas — Dorothy Dell Shoemake, a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Central and South America for 34 years, died Oct. 26 from complications from a stroke. Shoemake, the former Dorothy Dell Moore, was 73. She and her late husband, Howard, were appointed in 1947 and were the first Southern Baptist missionaries to enter the Dominican Republic in 1962.



Jerel Wade, right, was recently presented a Certificate of License from Donald Pounders, pastor of Pleasant Home Church, Laurel. Along with the certificate the church gave him a set of Broadman Bible Commentaries. Wade, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wade, is a student at William Carey College.

Homecomings

Fellowship (Jasper): Nov. 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Lester Gardner, guest speaker; dinner at noon with dedication of new fellowship hall; afternoon singing featuring the Simms Brothers and Called Out; Buddy Petty, pastor.

Calvary, Durant: Nov. 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; 2 p.m. singing; The New Hinsons, Nashville, Tenn. guest singers; Harrison Weger, guest speaker; Jerry Smith, pastor.

Everett (Simpson): Nov. 7; all day singing and dinner on grounds; singers invited.

Evansville, Coldwater: Nov. 7; Eddie Campbell, former music director, guest speaker; James Powell, music; dinner in fellowship hall and singing.

Revival Dates

Mt. Zion, Florence: Nov. 10; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch served, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Billy Thomas, Lafayette, La., evangelist; Richard and Brenda Sullivan, Pearl, music; Tommy Bufkin, pastor.



Vic Granger (left), 20, son of Hal and Dale Granger, Wesson, was licensed to the ministry Sept. 19 by Strong Hope Church, Copiah Association. Granger is a junior at Mississippi College. Lowell Ingram (right) is pastor.

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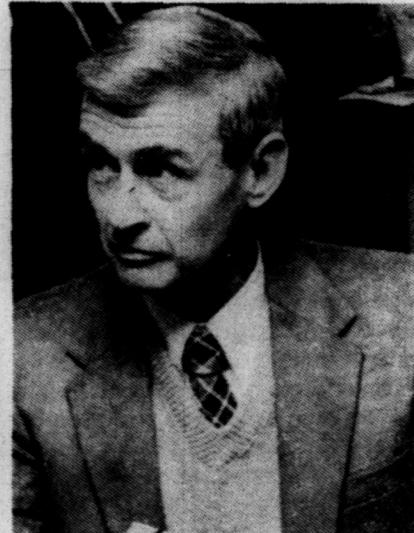
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Jerry Lane Holmes was ordained as a deacon at Magees Creek Church, Walthall Association, on Sept. 26. Pictured, from left, are Max Parris, pastor; Holmes, and Archie Herrin, director of missions.



Kirk Ford of Clinton, professor of history at Mississippi College, has been selected as the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 1993 at the school. His lecture, entitled "Legacies of the Cold War," will be presented on Nov. 8 at 2:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B. C. Rogers Student Center on campus. Ford holds the bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College and the master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has been a member of the faculty since 1980.

The Thought Occurred to Me

by Don McGregor,
editor emeritus, Baptist Record

Foreword by Jerry Clower

Details how Cooper worked with Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president, to evangelize India. \$9.95 including postage.

Don McGregor, P.O. Box 23105,
Jackson, MS 39225.

Uniform

The family deception



By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 27

Realizing that he was getting on in years, Isaac decides it is time to pass on the blessing to his elder son, Esau. He makes plans with him and sends him out on a hunt so that he might enjoy a tasty meal and then give his son the blessing. But, it was not to be so.

The plotting (vv. 6-8). The blessing was intended for and was going to be given to Esau, the eldest son. Rebekah heard her husband plan to pass on the blessing to Esau. She draws her son into the plot to deceive her husband and steal the birthright intended for Esau. This plot was conceived in the mind of Rebekah, but Jacob became party to it.

The deception (vv. 15-17). Rebekah knew that her husband's eyesight was failing and he was also weakened from old age. Her plan was to make Jacob appear like her eldest son in order to deceive Isaac. She prepared a meal that she knew would convince her husband that Esau had returned and fixed supper for him. Her plan was so elaborate that she even thought to cover the skin on Jacob's body that Isaac might touch. Although Jacob was not party to this plot originally, he was responsible for his actions. He could not blame his mother any more than Adam could blame Eve or Eve could blame the serpent. Did Jacob want the birthright? Yes, he did. Did he have the right to treat his father in such a blasphemous and deceiving way to accomplish his success? I think not. God always has a way that is far better than any of our feeble efforts. Remember last week's lesson: God had spoken to Rebekah and had informed her that "the older would serve the younger" (25:23). Did she really feel that God needed her help in getting his will accomplished? Did Jacob?

The pretense (vv. 18-20). "I am Esau" (v. 19). Jacob, pretending to be his brother, Esau, takes the meal that his mother had prepared for Isaac, his father. Isaac may have been old, but he was not dense. He did not feel that Esau had been gone long enough to have a successful hunt and prepare the meal, and he inquired as to who was speaking to him. When Jacob pretended to be his brother, Esau, Isaac questioned him, "How did you find it quickly?" Not only does Jacob lie, he praises God for his successful hunt (v. 20b). Some of the folks my age will remember a singing group called The Platters. They had a song out that could have been inspired by this story called, "Oh, Yes, I'm the Great Pretender."

The trickery. Be aware that Satan is full of tricks. You may rest assured that he will use people in his tricks. He manifests himself as an "angel of light" for he was once a very beautiful creature of heaven before he fell. Isaac recognized Jacob's voice (v. 22), but he felt sure he could prove this thing out by his touch. When Jacob drew near to his father he had the odor of a hunter, the skin and the dress of a hunter, and when asked outright if he was Esau he responded that he was. Greed for power or wealth can be a demon that will cause a man to do some awful things.

The blessing (vv. 25-27). What are we capable of when it comes to getting our own way, or something that we feel we just absolutely have to have? Isaac ate the meal prepared by his wife. Perhaps it was the meal, or the combination of the deceptive practices, but Isaac ate the meal and Jacob received the blessing. Jacob was successful; or was he? Isaac was deceived. Esau was deceived. God was not deceived in this situation, for he is never mocked. Just when you think you have gotten away with something, remember who God is. "Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked.... (Gal. 6:7, NIV).

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book

God's demand for obedience



By Jewel P. Merritt
Deuteronomy 10, 11

Demand are made on us every day. If we borrow money to buy a car or a house, the lending institution demands that we repay the loan. Schools and colleges demand a certain level of mastery from their students. Your job demands that you work a given number of hours per week.

When one marries, he/she doesn't think about demands. The bride and groom enter marriage thinking more about their love for each other and ways of expressing that love. But marriage makes demands on its participants — demands to love, honor, care for, and cherish until death dissolves the marriage.

God makes demands on his children. He demands our obedience. Because of our love for him, we should look for ways to express our love.

The Lord's requirements (10:12-20). Parents want the best for their children. For Christian parents, our greatest desire should be for our children to love and be faithful to the Lord.

Moses spoke of God's yearning for his children to fear or revere him, to walk in his ways, to love and to serve him with all their hearts and souls (v. 12). Can't you hear the great Father heart of God speaking these words to his children? Why does God demand, or command, such behavior? Verse 13 tells us that it was for his children's own good. Moses went on to remind the people that everything in heaven and on earth belonged to the Lord. Yet in all the universe he chose and delighted to love his children. Isn't that a thrilling, humbling thought? Such an idea should prompt a willingness on our part to obey the demands God places on us for our own good.

Moses reminded the people of the outward sign of their relationship to God, circumcision. Even more important than this outward sign was the condition of the people's hearts. They were to cut away, as it were, anything that came between them and the Lord.

These verses close with a further admonition to copy the actions of the heavenly Father by being fair to the orphans and widows and by sharing with those in need.

Obedience results in a bountiful land (11:13-14). The Hebrew children had left Egypt, an arid land where irrigation was necessary for growing crops. Canaan was a land that enjoyed its rainy seasons, one in autumn and the other in the spring. Obedience to God's commands would insure the coming of the rains in season.

We must be careful with these verses, I think. God does bless faithful obedience to his commands. He also allows his children to be tested. Sometimes our greatest testimony is given in periods of testing, either a disaster, sickness, or sorrow. Martha gave her great declaration of faith in Jesus four days after the death of her brother, Lazarus: "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world" (John 11:27, NIV). What a testimony that was for our Lord!

The choice before Israel (11:26-28). Choices must be made every day. Upon awaking, we choose whether we will greet the day with a smile or a frown. We choose to do a good day's work on the job. (Choosing to do poor work may result in our boss choosing to fire us!) Some choices bring immediate results. The outcome of other choices may be years in coming.

Now here is an amazing fact which is repeated again and again in the Bible. The Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, Redeemer, the powerful, holy Lord offers mankind a choice! God longs to save us, to bless us, to guide and direct us. But we can choose to say no to God! Of course, that choice brings eternal consequences.

In Deuteronomy 11:26-28, Moses spoke God's offer of the choice open to Israel. They could choose a blessing by obeying the commands of the Lord. The opposite choice would result in a curse if the people disobeyed the Lord and chose to worship other gods.

God still offers a choice. May we say with Joshua, "...Choose for yourself whom you will serve.... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15, NIV).

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work

Faith, hope, and love



By Mark A. Rathel
Isaiah 7, 9

After the Civil War, the situation of the College of William and Mary in Virginia was bleak. For seven years, the college was closed. Yet, each morning for seven years, the president of the college rang the chapel bells. To the local residents, the bells rang with the notes of faith, hope, and love.

The situation for the nation of Israel was bleak during Isaiah's ministry. Mighty Assyria reached the zenith of her power and devoured the smaller nations of the Near East. In the midst of Assyrian threats, Isaiah challenged the people to trust in Yahweh alone. In doing so, Isaiah rang the notes of faith, hope, and love.

As the leader goes, so goes the people (7:10-12). Ahaz was a young king, perhaps 20 years of age, when the world situation forced a crisis in his reign. As a solution to the Assyrian threat, Judah's neighbors, Israel and Syria, formed an alliance. When Ahaz refused to join, the neighboring leaders attacked Judah with the goal of replacing Ahaz with a puppet king. Ahaz was frightened; consequently, the people were frightened (v. 2). If Ahaz had confidence in the Lord, he could have calmed the fears of the people.

God sent Isaiah to comfort and confront Ahaz. Isaiah encountered Ahaz as he inspected the water situation of the capital in preparation for a siege. Isaiah compared the neighboring leaders to smoldering sticks — smoke but no fire. Judah had no reason to fear with Yahweh on their side.

God commanded Ahaz to ask for a miraculous sign to confirm Isaiah's message of calm in the midst of a crisis. Ahaz refused to obey God's command of asking for a sign. If God confirmed the message through a sign, then Ahaz was obligated to obey. Ahaz refused to ask for a sign because he already had decided to ask Assyria for help against Israel and Syria. Through his appeal to Assyria, Ahaz committed his nation to political servitude to the Assyrian king and spiritual servitude to the Assyrian gods. As the leader goes, so goes the people.

The Lord gave a sign (7:14). God gave Ahaz a sign anyway. The sign functioned as a judgment upon Ahaz but a source of hope for believers. Isaiah accused Ahaz of trying the patience of "my God" (v. 13). Ahaz made a conscious decision to reject God. Since Ahaz trusted the Assyrians more than he trusted God, the Lord judged the nation through the Assyrians (7:17-25).

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14. Through his birth, he partook of human nature, and consequently he could become our high priest and make a sin offering on our behalf (Heb. 2:17). The miraculous nature of his birth resulted in Jesus having a divine nature as well. Jesus is, for all time, God With Us.

God increases the joy (9:2-5). The northern region of Zebulon and Naphtali observed first the terror of the Assyrian armies. As a result of the Assyrian invasion, the people were in darkness. They felt God-forsaken. In a time future to Isaiah, God transformed this region through the light of his presence, Jesus (Matt. 4:14-16).

The coming of Christ meant joy and liberation. Isaiah compared the joy of Christ to two celebrative events: a harvest and a victory celebration after battle. The coming of Christ results as well in liberation, the breaking of the yoke of oppression. Christ provides liberation from guilt, anxiety, fear, and sin.

His name shall be called (9:6-7). In biblical usage, a name represents the character of the person. The four titles ascribed to the child are revelations of the character and reign of the child. He is the Wonderful-Counselor. The emphasis in this title related to his administrative ability. He makes wonderful plans. He is the mighty God. He has the power and ability to carry out the wonderful plans. He eternally related to his subjects as a caring Father. He is the Source of peace and harmonious relationships.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**SEPT. 1, 1993 -
SEPT. 30, 1993**

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Mrs. Ila Mistead
Delbert Huskey
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Holloway
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Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mr. Todd Huskey
Mrs. Lucille Bodie
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WMU Day Circle, Dekalb BC,
Dekalb
Mrs. Laura Ikard
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Breithaupt
Gertie Mae Jackson
Ons Baptist Church
Leslie Jackson
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Misses Opal & Edna Watson
Morris Jennings
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Mrs. Alme Myers
Patsy Holzbom
Irene M. Saliba
Peggy Saliba
Mr. Louis Nance

You Are Cordially Invited
to

The Baptist Children's Village

Open House

and

Merrill Administration Building
Dedication

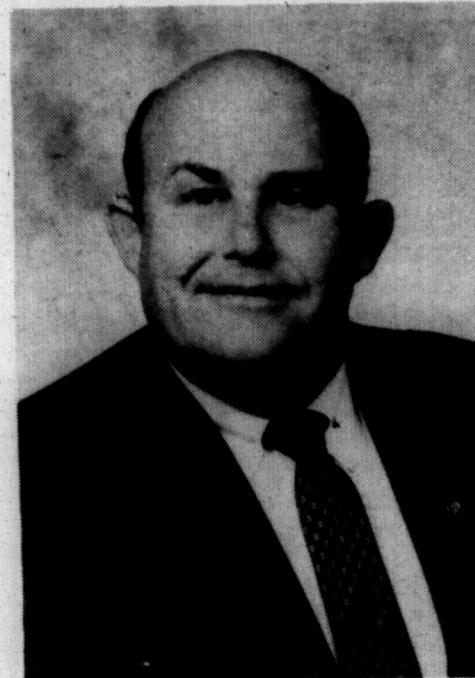
Tuesday, November 30, 1993

2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Powell Chapel

India Nannery Campus
805 Flag Chapel Road
Jackson, Mississippi

R.S.V.P. (601) 922-2242



A Note From The Executive Director

For 96 years the BCV has been giving love and care to literally thousands of orphaned, abused, and neglected children. A day never passes in which a pastor, a social worker, a police officer, or a distraught parent doesn't call The Village seeking help for a hurting boy or girl.

These children, due to no fault of their own, have suffered terrible tragedies — the loss of parents, the afflictions of child abuse, or the devastation of abandonment. They desperately need what only you can provide — Christian love, care and understanding, and support for their physical needs.

With more than four hundred children referred to the BCV in the past 12 months, I personally thank you for supporting the ministry of The Village. For some of these children, living in a BCV cottage is the first time they have had the opportunity to be in a Christian family environment. Without your support The Baptist Children's Village could not minister to these children.

Because you have reached out to these boys and girls, they have a chance. A chance to go to school, a chance to learn about God, and a chance at life itself. We are proud that you are a part of the tremendous effort of The Baptist Children's Village. Thank you for helping these children and youth become good, productive, responsible adults of tomorrow.

I am humbly,
Ronny Robinson
Executive Director

Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering
Mrs. W. S. Hammond
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Sandifer
Mrs. Ann Reeder
Ms. Louise Mounce
Mrs. Dorothy Brown Reid
Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Dubuisson
Mr. James H. Renfroe
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Johnson
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Mr. R. Ollis Rorie
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Lorick
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Ms. Dolores Wilkinson
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Mrs. Beulah Abel
Mr. Rex Savage
Ms. Peggy W. Bennett
Mrs. T. I. Johnson
Will Roy Sheppard
M/M Palmyra Bush & Family
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Mrs. Jettie Sides
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Mr. Kenneth B. Magness
Mrs. Helen Squires
Mr. & Mrs. David F. Baker
Miss Emma Steen
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Rutledge

(to be continued)



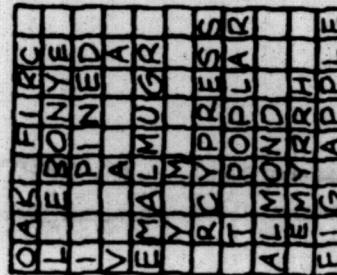
Source:

Fun Stuff for Kids 9-12

by Michael Streff

(Zondervan Publishing House, 1990).

Available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-727-3480.



TREES



First Church, Olive Branch, recently held its GA Recognition Service. Pictured, from left, are Stephanie Miller, Becky Moore, Lauren Niblett, Ame Litterer, Lindsey Harris, Patty Muncy, Chrissy Collier, and Crystal O'Kelly; back row, Heather New and Tiffany Moore. Directors are Pam Moore and Mattie Litterer.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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ETG ZLUA YLERZ RUBI ZLI RUXG ZLN KUG COZL
ERR ZLN LIEXZ, ETG COZL ERR ZLN YUAR, ETG COZL
ERR ZLN SOTG, ETG COZL ERR ZLN YZXITKZL....

SEXQ ZCIRBI:ZLOXZN

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twelve:Two.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

When a pro player goes down...

Dennis Byrd talks about "the hit"

(ZPS) — Editor's Note: On a cold November day last year, in front of millions of viewers, Dennis Byrd crashed into a 280-pound teammate, shattering Byrd's neck and spine. He was instantly paralyzed from the neck down. Over the next six months he battled doggedly against forecasts of lifetime paralysis, never giving up, always believing that if he worked hard — and trusted God — he would walk again. His miraculous story is told in *Rise and Walk* by Dennis Byrd with Michael D'Orso (Zondervan Publishing House, 1993). Here he answers questions about that life-changing moment on a Sunday afternoon.

Q: Dennis, tell about the first moments after "the hit" during that November Jets-Chiefs football game.

A: I remember lying there and looking up at the sky. The tingling in my body slowly sub-

sided, and my eyes and mind gradually regained their focus on the gray New Jersey sky above me.

The buzzing inside my body gradually slipped away, replaced by a new, more terrifying feeling — nothing.

I tried hard to get up. My head raised off the ground just enough for its weight to dislodge the bone chips randomly filling the space that had been my C-5 vertebra. I felt something give way. I heard it, too, a grinding and crunching at the top of my spine. And I knew then, I'd broken my neck.

Q: What was the reaction of your teammates when you didn't get up off the turf?

A: Kyle Clifton, our middle linebacker, came over to see what was wrong. When I told him I couldn't get up, that I was paralyzed, Kyle seemed to shrink within himself. It was as if everything that meant anything to him

had drained from his body in an instant. It was in his eyes, such a lonely look, like he was the only man left on the face of this earth. He realized I was lying there powerless, paralyzed, and he didn't know how to deal with it. Kyle was speechless.

Then Marvin Washington, my roommate and closest friend, leaned down and asked what was the matter. I told him that I didn't have any feeling in my legs. Marvin didn't say a word. He just turned away. He knew.

They all knew by then. All my teammates, and the Chiefs, too. Without hearing what I'd said to Kyle or Marvin, they had this realization that I was really hurt.

Q: Were you ever tortured by the question of why this happened to you?

A: First of all, I never asked, "Why me?" because if I asked, "Why me?" about this, I'd have to ask, "Why me?" about all the good things that have happened in my life — my wife, my daughter. Arthur Ashe made this same point when he was asked how he felt about getting AIDS.

But another even more basic reason I never asked, "Why me?" is because I knew "Why me." I really believe God chose me for this because he knew I was strong enough to endure it, that my faith would see me through. He knew I wouldn't falter. And I haven't. And I won't.



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club,

My name is Alicia, age 12, grade 7. I like to go to church and learn about God. I have two sisters, and I like animals, riding my bike, video games. I would like to have some pen pals. I hope someone wants to write me: Rt. 2, Box 12A, Potts Camp, MS 38659.

Alicia Ralph

Dear Pen Pal Club,

I am 12 years old and in the sixth grade. I would like to have a pen pal. I like to ride horses and swim with my friends. My sports are to play softball. I would like anyone to write, boy or girl. I will write everyone who writes me, and please send me a picture of yourself. Send your letters to: Rt. 1, Box 444, Greenwood, MS 38930.

Mary Elizabeth Johnson

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi! My name is Amanda Williamson. I am 12 years old and in the sixth grade at Oak Grove Middle School. I attend Richburg Church. I have an older brother named Josh. I have a dog named Tootsie and a cat named Whisky. Please write to me and include

your picture. My address is 28 Summer Place Cir., Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Amanda Williamson

Dear Pen Pal Club,

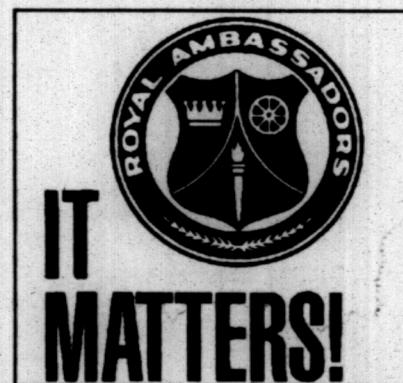
My name is Suzanne McKinley. I am nine years old. I go to Hollandale Church. I have a brother named Eric. I have a cat named Jevvy, and a dog named Blackie. I would like a boy or girl pen pal. If you would like to be my pen pal write to: P.O. Box 211, Hollandale, MS 38748.

Suzanne McKinley

Dear Pen Pal Club,

Hi, my name is Brittney Lee. I am a girl, 12 years old. I attend Good Hope Church where I am active in Acteens. I also attend Nanih Waiya School. I have one brother. I also have eight cats, one dog, and three goldfish. I like reading, playing the piano, and playing basketball. My favorite subjects are science, math, and history. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write me at this address: Rt. 7, Box 200, Louisville, MS 39339.

Brittney Lee



Baptist Record

005-DTM
291 SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SO. 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

November 4, 1993

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205